

# ARMY AND NAVY CHRONICLE.

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[WHOLE No. 75.]

## ORIGINAL.

### A SUMMER ON THE PRAIRIE.

#### No. VI.

*"Gold Dust's" chase—a buffalo hunt—habits of the buffalo—the antelope—wolves—their manner of attacking and killing buffalo—wild horses—appearance of the country—buffalo grass—wild sage—thunder storm—a narrow escape.*

July 7th. Marched this day sixteen miles, and encamped on the Platte. The whole country seems literally covered with buffalo. Ten, and perhaps twenty thousand may frequently be seen from the top of a single hill. It is astonishing with what certainty and despatch an Indian will lay one of those animals out with a bow and arrow. Having never been a witness of this kind of sport, I embraced a favorable opportunity this day to gratify my curiosity. A large herd of buffalo were feeding upon a level plain, in advance, some mile or two, of the main body of the command. After dismounting from my horse, and laying off the saddle, I made signs to a Pawnee Indian, whom the men of the command had christened by the precious name of "*Gold Dust*," to mount and make chase with his bow and arrow. Throwing off his blanket, he leaped upon the horse with nothing but a piece of strouding around his loins, and in a few seconds he was close along side of the herd. In a few moments one of the gang was seen to drop behind the rest. The Pawnee immediately gave chase; he had hardly come along side of the buffalo, when it was seen to stagger and reel; Mr. "*Gold Dust*" at this moment slipped another arrow into his lungs—a cough immediately ensued—the blood at this time streaming from his mouth and nose. Finding escape was hopeless, he turned upon his pursuer, and made battle; but it was too late. He had already "got his gruel." After casting a disdainful look at the red man, at the same time shaking his head as if in defiance, he quietly laid himself down, and died like a hero. The Pawnee immediately returned with my horse, bringing with him the tongue, which is considered the most delicious part of the animal.

July 8th. Having obtained permission to move on in advance of the command, in company with my intelligent friend, Capt. G., I had a good opportunity not only to view the surrounding country, and obtain such information respecting it as might be interesting to myself or friends, but also to feast my eyes with a fair view of the varieties of animals, both great and small, which rove over these extensive plains as lords of the soil.—To say that I was gratified, *highly* gratified, with the new and varied prospects which were continually opening before me through the day, as we advanced from hill to hill, would convey but a faint idea of the true state of my feelings—of the great pleasure which I derived from the day's march. In one direction, thousands of buffalo could be seen, some quietly grazing, others lying down, enjoying the luxury of masticating more thoroughly, the grass with which they had provided themselves in the cool of the morning, while others could be seen rolling their huge sides on the sand and raising a dust, which, at a little distance, might be mistaken for dense fog or smoke. In another direction, five or six hundred of these interesting animals could be seen, sometimes marching in single file, and at others in solid column towards the river, and moving until within a few hundred yards of the water, as though the days were a month long; then rushing forward and tumbling headlong down the bank until their noses were immersed up to the eyes in water. In less than a minute the whole herd rushes up the bank, and after surveying the coast, as if to be sure that they are not pur-

sued, they commence their march back to the hills, quietly grazing by the way.

Antelope are very abundant in this country. They are exceedingly wild and shy, and when they once get the wind of their pursuer, there is an end to the sport. They bound away to the top of some distant hill, and watch every movement with a vigilance which never tires, until all danger is past. No animal which I have ever seen upon the prairie, can compare with the antelope in symmetry and beauty. They are about the size of the goat, with long, straight limbs, slim necks, and black horns, which, unlike the deer or elk, they never shed. On the back, and about half way down the sides, they are red; under the belly, and extending some little distance up the sides, they are white, with white tails, and coarse white hair upon their haunches, which, when running from you, has the appearance of a white bushy tail. In running, their gait is very regular—never leaping or bounding like a deer, and always shaping their course to leeward, if possible. Their curiosity seems to be greatly excited by any thing which has a bright red appearance. By raising a red handkerchief upon a stick, at the same time concealing your person behind a bush, or in a buffalo wallow, they will frequently approach within twenty or thirty yards, and may be easily killed.

In all parts of the country, where buffalo are found, wolves are very abundant. There are two species in this region, which I have noticed; the large white wolf, and the small brown, or prairie wolf. They follow the buffalo, and when hard pushed, attack and kill them. When this becomes necessary, they collect to the number of thirty or forty, and watch the opportunity to attack an unfortunate fellow who has strayed from the herd. They then fall upon him very systematically. The largest number attack him in front, biting his ears and nose for the purpose of keeping him at bay, while four or five others follow behind, and cut his hamstring with their teeth. When the operation is finished, the poor animal of course falls an easy prey to his voracious enemy.

There are but few elk or deer in this region of country. This is probably owing to the scarcity of timber, as their habits and modes of life would seem to be better suited to such regions. More or less of these animals, however, are seen every day, but in comparison with the buffalo and antelope they are a rare animal.

Wild horses are very abundant in many parts of this extensive prairie, particularly between the forks of the Platte. Several droves of these have been seen, some of which had the appearance of being large, strong, well formed, and beautiful. By taking advantage of the wind, they may be approached within a few rods. Like the buffalo, they depend more upon their sense of smelling than of seeing. A gang of buffalo, horses, and antelope, will frequently run at six miles distance from the command, if directly to the leeward, and the wind brisk; while they may be approached without difficulty within a few hundred yards, if the wind is in a contrary direction.

At a mile distant from the river, the surface of the country is very broken, rising frequently from twenty to fifty feet, almost perpendicular. After travelling a few miles through these hills, the prairie is, as far as the eye can reach, apparently perfectly level. A buffalo may be seen at five miles distance. Here the real buffalo grass is found unmixed; it is very short—generally not more than an inch or two long, and very thick and curly. It is, however, very nutritious; and by giving horses sufficient time to graze, they travel much better upon it, and improve much faster, than upon the coarse long grass which is found upon the low grounds near the river.

After travelling about twenty miles, we halted and killed several buffalo. While our men were engaged

in butchering them, the command came in sight, and encamped two miles in our rear, upon the bank of the river. Having packed our mules with meat, we took our course towards camp, where we arrived, at about 9 o'clock in the evening, with appetites sufficient to appreciate the value of a marrow bone, and a strong cup of coffee, and just enough fatigued to sleep soundly upon a bear skin and blanket.

*July 9th.* The river appears much narrower as we approach the mountains, and its banks are entirely destitute of timber. Sometimes for miles the whole surface of the earth is covered with a species of wild sage, growing in bunches from eighteen inches to three feet apart, and to the height of from a foot to eighteen inches. During the winter, when the ground is covered with snow, the buffalo subsist almost entirely upon it. Good grazing has thus far generally been found near the river. Our horses continue to look well, and some of them have improved during the march, while our mules are evidently in a much better condition than when we left Fort Leavenworth. Our camp continues to be supplied with fine fat buffalo.

*July 10th.* Our camp being well situated for obtaining the four most desirable objects, viz:—fuel, grass, water and buffalo, Col. Dodge resolved to lay by this day for the purpose of allowing our animals time to rest and graze, and the men of the command an opportunity to wash and repair their clothes. Owing to a brisk wind which blew directly across the river and towards the hills, the buffalo now took the hint to be off, in consequence of which our hunters were not so successful as usual. Enough meat however was obtained to make our situation any thing but uncomfortable.

*July 11th.* Left camp at 10 o'clock, and marched fifteen miles. We encamped early in consequence of the threatening appearance of the weather. It was well we did so. Our tents were hardly pitched, and our baggage under shelter, before it commenced raining. For nearly an hour, peal after peal of thunder followed in quick succession, while the wind blew a perfect gale.

All our ingenuity was brought into requisition to prevent our tents taking wing, and leaving us to the tender mercy of the element. One can hardly imagine a situation where more patience and christian resignation can be brought into active exercise, than after a poor fellow has marched fifteen or twenty miles, and had just time to cook a buffalo steak, to be obliged to leave it, and hold on upon his tent for an hour, to prevent the wind from blowing it from over his head.

*July 12th.* After a hard march of twenty two miles, over a complete desert of sand hills and wild sage, we are again encamped on the banks of the Platte. We have been literally surrounded by buffalo all day. Thousands of them could be seen in every direction on the side of the river up which we were marching, while the opposite shore for many miles up and down, presented the appearance of a vast army, paraded or drawn up for review and inspection.

I will here mention an incident, in which I came very near being placed in rather an awkward predicament, hoping it may serve as a caution to those who may hereafter engage in the exciting and spirit-stirring sport of buffalo chasing; and who, like myself, may be ignorant of their habits and ferocious disposition especially when wounded. Having placed my horse which I usually rode, and always when on the chase, in charge of my servant, I mounted, this morning, one of my pack animals, in the shape of an Indian filly. Unfortunately, "Lady Ottoe," in common with most old ladies, was a little blind of an eye. In the course of the day, while jogging along in advance of the main body, an officer in company made it convenient to remind an old buffalo bull that it was high time he was clearing the way for Uncle Sam's big guns, by tickling him with a rifle-ball in the vicinity of the short ribs. Mr. Bull took the hint, and broke for the hills. Taking one of my pistols from the holster, I followed, with several others, in pursuit. Just as I had come along side, at a convenient distance, and was in the act of cocking my pistol, Mr. Bull made a sudden dart at the blind side of my fil-

ly. Nothing saved me in this extremity but my spurs, to which, fortunately, "Lady Ottoe" was not insensible. A buffalo when wounded and pursued, will fight as long as he can raise his head from the ground, and it is never safe to approach him, except on horseback, even after he falls, until it is certain he is dead.

F.

## CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENT.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 27, 1836.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 19th instant, requiring of this Department "to inform the Senate what is the maximum amount which can be beneficially expended, annually, towards completing the naval defences of the country; embracing, 1st, ordnance and ordnance stores; 2d, gradual increase of the navy, and collection of materials; 3d, repairs; 4th, navy yards and docks and other incidental heads of expenditure; provided the appropriations for the expenditures be made at once, for a series of years, to be drawn from the Treasury annually, as needed," I have the honor to state that the subject was referred to the Board of Navy Commissioners, whose report is herewith submitted.

In this report they present estimates of much larger amount than those contained in their report of the 2d of March last, as the *maximum* which, in their opinion, might be beneficially expended, annually, towards completing the naval defences of the country, "without any limit in reference to the means."

It will be perceived that these estimates are based upon the supposition that our naval preparations shall have no limit, except that imposed by a due regard to the public revenues, and by the probable condition of other maritime nations; and that the fixed, immovable fortifications of our country are to be kept within prescribed limits; and also upon the supposition that we shall erect six dry docks in addition to those already completed, to wit: one at Portsmouth, one at Boston, two at New York, one at Norfolk, and one at Pensacola.

Should it not be deemed expedient by Congress to increase our naval preparations to the extent contemplated by the Commissioners; or should the estimates for immovable fortifications, now submitted, be adopted; or should it not be deemed expedient to provide, at this time, for the construction of six dry docks, a corresponding reduction in the amount of the estimates of the Commissioners should be made.

It must also be observed, that the estimates of expenditures are made without regard to the effect they may have upon the commercial shipping interest of the country.

An expenditure of more than a million and a half of dollars annually, for the "gradual increase of the Navy, and collection of materials," would, in my opinion, create such a demand for labor and materials as essentially to increase the expense of ship-building, which could not fail to give foreign navigating interests an advantage over our own.

I thought it due to myself, in presenting the report of the Commissioners of the Navy Board, to make the foregoing observations.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

MAHLON DICKERSON.

Hon. M. VAN BUREN, *President of the Senate.*

NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE, April 21, 1836.

SIR: The Commissioners of the Navy have had the honor of receiving from your hands the resolution of the Senate of the 19th instant, with directions, given personally, and by endorsement on the resolution, to report thereon.

The resolution requires that the Senate be informed "what is the *maximum* amount which can be *beneficially* expended, annually, towards completing the naval defences of the country; embracing, first, ordnance and ordnance stores; second, gradual increase of the Navy,



and collection of materials; third, repairs; fourth, navy yards and docks, and other incidental heads of expenditure; provided the appropriations for the expenditure be made at once, for a series of years, to be drawn from the Treasury annually, as needed."

In the report which the Commissioners had the honor of presenting to you on the 2d ultimo, it was proposed "that the force to be prepared ready for use when circumstances may require it, shall consist of fifteen ships of the line, twenty-five frigates, twenty-five sloops of war, twenty-five steamers, and twenty-five smaller vessels; and that the frames and other timber, the copper, ordnance, tanks, and chain-cables shall also be prepared for ten ships of the line and ten frigates." It was further observed that "the force to be ready for use would employ thirty thousand seamen; the number assumed as that for which vessels ought to be prepared, for the commencement of a state of hostilities." In preparing that report, the Board, unapprized of your views or those of the Government upon the subject, looked to the then fiscal condition of the country, as exhibited in the Treasury reports, and thence drew the inferences expressed as to the sums, which might annually and conveniently be applied towards completing our naval defences; confining their views to the supposed convenience of the Treasury, and indicating rather the *minimum* of the amount of money necessary to place the naval defences of the United States upon the footing of strength and respectability due to the security and welfare of the Union.

But the resolution of the Senate calls for the *maximum* amount which can be beneficially expended, *annually*, towards completing the naval defences of the country, without any limit in reference to the means. The question thus presented appears to be unfettered with any restriction, or any consideration, other than that which refers exclusively to the completion of the naval defences of the country.

Had the resolution given any intimation as to the amount of the naval force, or, in other words, as to the nature and extent of the force deemed necessary for the defence of the country, a satisfactory reply might more easily and with more certainty come within the professional ability of the Board. Uninformed upon this material point as to the views of the honorable body by whom the resolution was passed, the Board must of necessity express their own, to show the basis of their calculations upon the subject.

If it be the settled policy of our Government to consider the Navy as "our first and best fortification;" if it be determined that our naval preparations shall have no limit except that imposed by a due regard to public revenues, and by the probable condition of other maritime nations; if the fixed, immovable fortifications of our country are to be kept within prescribed limits, that the naval defences, deemed more important because more efficient, may be enlarged to an extent necessary to defend our coast on the ocean, and guard it against invasion, the Commissioners would, with great deference, though with entire confidence in its correctness, express the opinion that an increase of naval preparations beyond that proposed in their letter of the 2d ultimo may become a measure of wise precaution in reference to the high interests thus committed to the protection of the Navy, and the solemn duties and responsibilities imposed upon it. Our means of naval defence and annoyance should surely be such as, when exerted against those possessed by other maritime nations with whom we may come in conflict, would fairly promise, if not secure, success.

Leaving, however, the nature and extent of our naval preparations to be decided by those with whom the decision rests, the Commissioners will suppose that fifteen ships of the line, twenty five sloops of war, twenty-five smaller vessels, with the frames and other timber, the copper, ordnance, tanks, and chain-cables for ten frigates, as a reserve force may be considered as the amount of force which it may be the pleasure of Congress to provide; and upon this hypothesis they base the reply to the resolution which they

have now the honor to submit, observing here that, if a greater force be adjudged expedient, the means necessary to provide it must be proportionately increased.

In the opinion of the Board, every ship belonging to the Navy should be kept in such a state of preparation that her full equipment and readiness for actual service, on any emergency, may be secured by the time a crew can be collected for her. The hulls of those not in service at sea should be frequently examined and kept in good condition; their armament, masts, spars, boats, tanks, chain-cables, and imperishable stores of every description, should be procured, and carefully preserved in a state of readiness for immediate use; and there should be always kept on hand a full supply of *seasoned* timber, of all kinds used in the construction of ships of war, and a full supply of spare ready-made masts and spars, of sizes and dimensions adapted to each of the various classes of our ships.

Our navy yards should possess all the conveniences and facilities of building and repairing ships of every class, with the greatest *dispatch* and *economy*. They should possess ample means of seasoning and preserving timber, and of keeping in a state of perfect security and preservation, ready for immediate use, all the stores and munitions of every description essential in the equipment and armament of our ships. To place the yards in this condition, preparations involving large expenditures are indispensable. Dry docks, timber docks, seasoning sheds, building slips, launching ways, ship-houses, smitheries, workshops, wharves, &c., must be possessed to an extent proportionate to the number and size of our ships, and the quantity of materials to be kept on hand. We cannot, in a *state of peace*, secure the services of our ships as promptly as would be desirable, without these conveniences. In *war*, when time is all-important, when celerity of movement and vigorous action are alike in constant requisition, the want of them would paralyze every exertion, and be felt as a heavy national calamity. Suppose a squadron coming into port after a long cruise, or after a serious engagement at sea, or after encountering usual storms, the ships composing it would require repairs, some of them probably very extensive; many might require docking, and they arrive at a port where there is but one dock; while one is in dock, the residue must wait and take their turn to be docked, and months, at least, may elapse before the squadron (possibly wanted for *immediate service*) can be repaired and put in a condition for further service. Golden opportunities of sustaining the honor of our flag and advancing the highest interests of our country may thus be lost.

But, without supposing a case, the present actual condition of our ships at New York may be cited as affording ample illustration of the value of these facilities and conveniences, and particularly in reference to docks. If we possessed them at that yard, the ships now there, particularly those of the line, which require extensive repairs, might be put in a condition for service in a much shorter space of time, more effectually, at *far less expense*, and without incurring any of the risks attending the process of heaving down.

With these considerations in view, the Commissioners would observe that, in their opinion, the sum of one million and eight hundred thousand dollars might be "beneficially expended" in procuring ordnance and ordnance stores; that the *maximum* amount which could be expended in the *first year*, from the date of an appropriation, would probably not exceed \$300,000, but in the second and subsequent years at least \$500,000 might be beneficially expended in providing cannon, carronades, bombs, shot, bomb-shells, muskets, pistols, cutlasses, boarding-pikes, boarding-axes, powder, or the materials for making it, and all the other various articles necessary to the *armament of the ships*. That for "the increase of the Navy and collection of material," the sum of sixteen millions of dollars might beneficially be expended; that during the *first year* the expenditure for *timber* could not be very considerable. It might be contracted for in the course of a few months, but the trees should not be felled before the month of October next, and the contractors would not probably commence

delivering the timber at the yards before April or May, 1837; and possibly such interruptions from Indian hostilities might arise in getting out the live oak as to postpone the operations of those engaged in that business for a still greater length of time. But the imperishable articles of copper, iron, and lead, might be procured probably during the first year; and it may be observed, as an inducement to procure them now, that the prices now asked for such articles are as low as they have ever been known to be. This observation is grounded upon the latest contracts made for copper and iron.

Under all circumstances, the Commissioners believe that the sum of one million and a half of dollars might be judiciously expended "for the gradual increase of the Navy, and collection of materials," during the first year after an appropriation, and that, in the six subsequent years, the residue of the \$16,000,000 (viz \$14,500,000) might be expended; making, in these years, an average expenditure of about \$2,417,000.

The probable inability to expend any considerable sum during the first year, for timber, is a circumstance not to be regretted, because we have not the means of seasoning and preserving it. The preparation of such means, which consist of timber-docks and seasoning-sheds, should precede the reception of timber. They may be prepared by the time the timber will be delivered; and when they shall be ready for the reception of the timber, the timber should be procured as early as may be practicable, in order to give it the longest time possible for seasoning, before it shall be actually used in the construction or repair of ships.

As to "repairs," the operations under this head would necessarily be protracted and limited, until we can have a sufficient number of dry-docks, and other conveniences for repairing ships of war. We have now only two dry-docks, one at Norfolk, the other at Boston; so that only one vessel can be taken into dock at a time at either of those places; and at other yards where we have ships of the line, it would probably be advisable rather to wait the construction of docks, before commencing any repairs which their bottoms may require. The Commissioners, however, believe that, under this head, nine hundred thousand to a million of dollars may be annually and judiciously expended.

Upon the subject of "navy yards, docks, and other incidental heads of expenditure," the Board would respectfully observe, that the plans for improving the yards, adopted under the act of Congress, of 1827, and approved by the President of the United States, contemplate expenditures to a large amount, the means of estimating which are not in the possession of the Board. It is certain, however, that it will require a series of years to complete the improvements, and it is equally certain that the expense will unavoidably be very large. But, to confine our views at present to a portion of those improvements, say a dry-dock at Portsmouth; an additional dry-dock at Boston; two dry-docks at New York; and an additional dry-dock at Norfolk; and a dry-dock at Pensacola; with the number of timber-docks, timber-sheds, ship-houses, slips, wharves, store-houses, &c. required for these and other yards, and adapted to the proposed force, and essential to keep it in a state of desirable preparation for service: one million and a half of dollars may be considered as the maximum amount which could be "beneficially expended" during the first year; but for each succeeding year, two millions and a half may be expended, and very beneficially, until the necessary improvements shall be completed.

These views present the following results; showing the maximum amounts which, in the opinion of the Navy Commissioners, might be beneficially expended, annually, for different series of years.

1st. "Ordnance and ordnance stores," during the first year \$300,000, and during the second year \$500,000; the third year \$500,000, and the fourth year \$500,000.

2d. "Gradual increase of the Navy and collection of materials," during the first year, \$1,500,000, and each

of the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh years, about \$2,417,000.

3d. "Repairs," about \$1,000,000, say one million of dollars annually.

4th. Navy yards and docks, and other incidental heads of expenditure, \$1,500,000 during the first year, and two millions and a half of dollars during the second year, and the like sum annually, till the necessary improvements be completed.

If an appropriation adopting these views were made, and the number and description of vessels recommended in our letter of the 2d ultimo were kept in commission without diminution or increase, then the annual naval expenditure, exclusive of the expenditure under "gradual improvement," but including \$400,000 annually for the corps of marines, would be—

For the first year	\$8,550,000
For the 2d, 3d, and 4th years, each	10,667,000
For the 5th, 6th, and 7th years, each	10,167,000
For subsequent years, each	7,750,000

until the improvements in the navy yards should be completed to the extent desirable and necessary.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. RODGERS.

The resolution of the Senate is herewith returned.  
Hon. M. DICKERSON, *Secretary of the Navy.*

#### PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS, IN RELATION TO THE ARMY, NAVY, &c.

FRIDAY, May 20:

Mr. CALHOUN, from the committee of conference appointed on the part of the Senate, to confer with a committee of the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses as to the Senate's amendment to the bill authorizing the President to accept the services of ten thousand volunteers for the defence of the western frontiers, reported that the committees of the two houses had had a meeting, but that they had not been able to effect the objects for which they were appointed, having sat the whole day without coming to any agreement whatever.

After a few remarks from Messrs. King of Ala. and Calhoun, the message of the House was then received, stating that that body insisted on its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate.

Mr. CALHOUN moved that the Senate also insist on its amendment, and that it ask for another committee of conference, which was further discussed by Messrs. King of Ala., Calhoun, Buchanan, Preston, Leigh, Webster, and Southard.

The question was taken, and the Senate determined to insist on its amendment and to ask for another conference; and on balloting for a committee on the part of the Senate, Messrs. Calhoun, King of Alabama, and Nicholas, were chosen.

The bill making appropriations for the support of the Indian Department for the year 1836, was read the third time and passed.

The bill from the House making appropriations for the suppression of hostilities by the Creek Indians was read twice and referred.

SATURDAY, May 21.

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Mr. Franklin, their clerk, stating that the House agreed to the resolution of the Senate for the appointment of a committee of conference, on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses to the amendment of the Senate to the bill authorizing the President to accept the services of volunteers and for raising an additional regiment of light dragoons, and that the House had appointed a committee on their part.

The following bills from the House were severally read twice and referred:

The bill making appropriations for the repairs of the United States Arsenal at Charleston, South Carolina;

The bill to provide for the better protection of the western frontier; and

The bill to establish an arsenal in the State of North Carolina.

On motion of Mr. LINN, the bill making appropriations for the purchase of sites, the collection of materials, and for the commencement of certain fortifications, was taken up, the question being on Mr. Benton's amendment as modi-



fied by Mr. Preston to strike out \$101,000 for fortifications at Penobscot, and insert "for fortifications at Penobscot bay—dollars per annum for two years."

Mr. BENTON then addressed the Senate in a speech of some length, in favor of the amendment and the bill generally.

Mr. SOUTHARD then addressed the Senate in opposition to the bill.

Messrs. HILL and WALL severally addressed the Senate in favor of the bill; after which

Mr. Calhoun moved that it be laid on the table to enable him to make a report from the committee of conference; which motion being agreed to, by general consent,

Mr. CALHOUN, from the Committee of Conference, appointed to confer with a similar committee of the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses as to the Senate's amendment to the bill authorizing the President to accept the services of ten thousand volunteers, and to raise an additional regiment of light dragoons, reported that they had had a meeting with the committee of the House of Representatives, and that they had jointly agreed to recommend an amendment to their respective houses, in substance as follows:

The President is authorized to accept the service of volunteers, the number not exceeding ten thousand, in companies, regiments, brigades, and divisions; the officers to be commissioned in the manner prescribed by the laws of the several States from which these volunteers may offer themselves; where regiments, brigades, or divisions volunteer. They shall be commanded by the same officers by whom they shall be commanded at the time of volunteering; and that for volunteers offering their services in single companies, the President shall organize them into battalions, regiments, brigades and divisions, and apportion the battalion and field officers among the States from which said companies shall come.

After some remarks from Messrs. King of Alabama, and Calhoun, the report was laid on the table.

At a subsequent period of the day, a message was received from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Franklin, their clerk, stating that the House had adopted the report made by their committee of conference, and asked the concurrence of the Senate therein.

On motion of Mr. CALHOUN, the report and message of the House were considered, and on the question, shall the Senate concur in the amendment recommended by the committee of conference? it was decided in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. BENTON, the fortification bill was again taken up, and after some remarks from Mr. Calhoun in opposition to the amendment, the question was taken and it was adopted by the following vote: yeas 20, nays 13.

Mr. BENTON then moved to fill the blank with \$75,000, so as to make the appropriation for Penobscot for two years \$75,000 for each year; which, after some remarks from Mr. Preston, who thought the sum too large, was agreed to.

Mr. PRESTON then moved to strike out the appropriation of \$100,000 for fortifications at Kennebec river, this being one of the places for which there were no estimates or surveys.

After some remarks, in support of the motion, from Messrs. Calhoun and Preston, and from Mr. Benton, in opposition to it, the question was decided in the negative: yeas 7, nays 23.

Mr. Benton moved further to amend the bill by striking out the appropriation of 100,000 dollars for fortifications at Kennebec river, and inserting 100,000 dollars for the same object for the year 1836, and 200,000 dollars for the year 1837.

Mr. PRESTON moved that the Senate adjourn; lost—ayes 12, noes 13.

Mr. WALL moved to amend the amendment, so as to make it read 100,000 dollars per annum for two years; which motion was agreed to.

The question was then taken on the amendment as amended, and it was adopted: yeas 19, nays 9.

Mr. BENTON moved further to amend, by striking out the appropriation for fortifications at Portland, and inserting for the same object 75,000 per annum for two years; which motion was carried in the affirmative: yeas 20, nays 8.

Mr. PRESTON moved that the Senate adjourn—lost: ayes 11, noes 15.

Mr. PRESTON then moved to strike out the appropriations for fortifications at Portsmouth, which motion was lost without a division.

Mr. BENTON moved further to amend the bill, by inserting in lieu of the appropriations for fortifications at Ports-

mouth, "for fortifications at Portsmouth, 150,000 dollars annually for two years."

On taking this question, it was found that there was not a quorum voting.

On motion of Mr. GRUNDY, the Senate adjourned.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, May 20.

Mr. LEWIS, from the joint committee of conference on the disagreeing vote of the two Houses upon an amendment of the Senate to the bill authorizing the President of the United States to accept the service of volunteers, reported that the committee had come to no agreement, and that he was instructed to move that the House insist on their disagreement to the amendment of the Senate. [The amendment provides that the officers shall be appointed by the President and Senate, instead of being appointed by the volunteers, under the regulations of the State governments, as proposed by the House.] Messrs. Lewis, Bell, Glascock, White, Thompson, Hardin and Holsay, addressed the House.

Mr. SPEIGHT moved the previous question; which was seconded—ayes 103, noes not counted.

Mr. PATTON asked for the yeas and nays on the previous question; which were ordered.

The House then determined that the main question (which was on receding from their disagreement to the Senate's amendment) should be put—yeas 126, nays 70.

Mr. WHITTLESEY, of Ohio, asked for the yeas and nays on the main question; which were ordered, and were—yeas 74, nays 123; so the motion to recede was decided in the negative. The House then insisted upon its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate.

Pending the consideration in committee of the mail route bill, the Speaker momentarily resumed the chair, and on motion of Mr. Lewis, the House agreed to a second joint committee of conference, on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, upon the amendment of the Senate to the bill authorizing the President to accept the service of volunteers; and a committee was appointed on the part of the House. The House then at 7 o'clock, P. M. adjourned.

SATURDAY, May 21.

#### FLORIDA WAR.

On motion of Mr. WHITE, of Florida, and by general consent, the House went into committee, Mr. Phillips in the chair, on the bill to provide for the payment of expenses incurred, and supplies furnished on account of the militia received into the service of the United States, for the defence of Florida. The bill was read as follows:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby directed, to cause to be paid the expenses that have been incurred and the supplies that have been furnished in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and the Territory of Florida, on account of the militia received into the service of the United States for the defence of Florida. *Provided,* That the accounts for these claims shall be examined and audited at the Treasury, as in other cases.

Mr. WHITE moved to amend the bill by including in its provisions the militia first called into service by Generals Clinch and Hernandez.

Mr. PINCKNEY conceived that the bill did embrace the whole of the corps employed in the Floridas.

Mr. SPEIGHT explained that the amendment was necessary, for the first section of the bill did not provide for the object embraced in the amendment.

Mr. WHITE, of Florida, was also given to understand by a letter received that morning, that the volunteers called out by Generals Clinch and Hernandez would not be paid under the former bill; and he read a letter from the Secretary of War to the same effect.

After a few words from Messrs. Owens, Johnson, of Kentucky, and Cambreleng,

Mr. GLASCOCK suggested a modification of the amendment, as follows: "And such other militia and volunteers as have been received and mustered into the service of the United States, and regularly discharged." He explained in a few words the object of his amendment.

Mr. HAWES wanted to know if any estimates had been sent to the House, and if the bill was intended to provide for those who were mustered into the service, and afterwards refused to fight, and went home?

Mr. GLASCOCK replied that his amendment met the gentleman's question by the phrase, "regularly discharged."

Mr. HAWES was not satisfied with that, as it did not go

far enough. The men might have been discharged by their own officers, and he certainly would not vote a dollar to such men.

Mr. WHITE, of Florida, said there was no troops in Florida that had refused to fight. There were some who came near the border, and retired upon some disagreement with their officers; but the bill was not intended to embrace them, nor could it be so construed.

Mr. GLASCOCK remarked that if his amendment were agreed to, it was sufficiently explicit. The words "regularly discharged from the service," could only mean a discharge by the officers of the United States.

The amendment of Mr. G. was then agreed to *nem. con.*

The amendment, as amended, was then also agreed to.

Mr. GARLAND, of Louisiana, moved further to amend the bill by inserting in the first section the word "volunteers" after the word "militia;" agreed to. After some further remarks from Messrs. Martin, Whittlesey, Speight, Mercer, Lawler, Hunt, White, of Flo Owens, Briggs, Pinckney, Glascock and Mason, of Ohio, the committee rose and reported the bill and amendments to the House.

The SPEAKER having resumed the chair, the bill, as amended in committee, was taken up and the amendments read. The discussion was further continued by Messrs. Vanderpoel, Graves, Judson, Elsha Whittlesey, Parker, Adams, and White of Florida; when the amendment of the Committee of the Whole was concurred in, and the bill was passed.

Mr. Lewis, from the joint committee of conference, appointed on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, upon an amendment of the Senate to the bill authorizing the President to accept the service of volunteers, reported several amendments to said bill; which were agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Wise, by leave,

*Resolved*, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to this House all the measures taken by the administration to suppress Indian hostilities in Florida; also to communicate all the information in his possession relative to the cause of those hostilities.

On motion of Mr. Martin, by leave,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making provision for the payment of the reasonable compensation of such volunteer companies as were formed and repaired to the seat of Government of the State of Alabama, upon the call of the Governor of said State, and were not received into the service on account of the disturbances in Florida, as well as for the Creek service; the requisite number of companies having been received before they arrived; and that the accompanying communication upon this subject from his Excellency C. C. Clay, Governor of the said State, be referred to that committee.

#### FORTIFICATION BILL.

On motion of Mr. Cambreleng, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Mann, of N. Y. in the chair, and resumed the consideration of the bill "making appropriations for certain fortifications of the United States, for the year 1836."

The question pending being the motion of Mr. Cambreleng to amend the bill by inserting an item of \$700,000 for the armament of the fortifications.

Mr. FORESTER concluded his remarks. The bill was further discussed by Messrs. Pickens and Underwood.

Mr. SUTHERLAND submitted his motion, that the fortification bill be made the special order for 11 o'clock to-morrow; which was agreed to. The House then adjourned.

#### NAVY APPRENTICES.

The subject of authorising apprentices for the Navy, being now under consideration in Congress, the observations of experienced men upon the subject will not, it is presumed, be unacceptable to our readers. In the year 1828 a series of letters signed "Perry" addressed to the honorable R. Y. Hayne, made their appearance in the National Gazette. In No. VIII of those letters, the author, after some observations relative to the schools attached to Greenwich Hospital, and recommending similar establishments for our own service, thus proceeds:

I will now, sir, respectfully but earnestly invite your attention to a proposition, the expediency of which can scarcely be questioned.

The crew of a vessel of war consists of various descriptions of persons; all useful and necessary in their respective spheres; among others, are petty officers, able seamen, ordinary seamen, and boys, to whom various functions are assigned, the relative importance of which is in the order in which they are stated; and whose pay is proportioned accordingly—thus the petty officer receives \$18 and \$19 per month; able seamen \$12; ordinary seamen \$10; boys \$6; all drawing one ration each per day.

On board of a ship of the line there are 57 petty officers; 280 able seamen; 260 ordinary seamen and 40 boys. They all enter to serve a given period of time, say three years, at the termination of which they are paid off and discharged. The boys, left to themselves, follow the examples of their seniors, and too often indulge in excesses, ruinous to their constitutions, and destructive of all future usefulness.

My proposition is to enter boys as apprentices to the Navy, until they shall be twenty-one years of age; to feed, clothe, and educate them at the public expense. A boy, 14 years old, at the commencement of his apprenticeship, could perform all the duties now devolving upon a boy, for three years, when he would be qualified for the station of an ordinary seaman, and acting in that capacity two years, he would become an able seaman, and many would be fit for petty officers, after serving a few months as able seamen. But in the estimate hereafter to be made, I will say three years a boy, two years an ordinary seaman, and two years an able seaman.

That it is an object of national importance to increase the number of our seafaring population: that doing so would not clash with any other interest in the community: that the moral and intellectual condition of seamen generally might be greatly improved by early attention to their education: and that it would be highly advantageous to the public as well as to the individuals themselves to confer such improvement will not, it is presumed, be questioned by any one; and so simple, so easy of execution, so unobjectionable on the score of expense, are the means of effecting these desirable objects, that I almost persuade myself they will, when properly considered, receive the universal suffrages of all enlightened men.

Among a number apprentices various degrees of merit and capacity will readily be discovered—and their education should be regulated accordingly—all should be taught to read, write and cypher as far as and including the rule of three—and such as should be found to possess talents and ambition should have their education extended so as to fit them for the superior stations to which they may aspire. A well digested system, faithfully executed, would, in the course of a few years, supply our navy with all the boatswains, gunners, quartermasters, quartergunners, yeomen, &c. required for the service—and render us, with respect to such officers, what we are neither now nor have been in times past, wholly independent, except upon ourselves.

Apprentices should be entitled to all the benefits of naval hospitals—and during their apprenticeship their hospital money should be regularly paid by the United States. They should be entitled to share prizes equally with those of the same class in which they may be serving—the amount to be reserved for them till the expiration of their terms, or paid to their parents or guardians.

When they should be 21 years of age they should receive a regular discharge from the service—and when deserving of it, a certificate of good conduct, signed by their immediate commander, a copy of which should be transmitted to the Navy Department, to be there recorded, with their age, entrance into service, promotion, discharge, &c.

A certificate of good conduct, with satisfactory evidence of qualification, should entitle its owner to a preference in appointments to petty offices on board of ship, and in case of superior qualification, to higher offices, such as gunner, boatswain, &c.



To provide for cases of extraordinary merit, often found in the humblest walks of life, authority might be given to annul an apprentice's bond for the purpose of promoting an apprentice to the station of midshipman.

Each apprentice should be regularly and formally bound, (according to the custom of the State in which he may be living,) by his parent or guardian—and none should be received having any impediment of speech, or any bodily or mental infirmity.

An appropriate dress should be provided for them, and with a view to extend to our manufacturing interests that kind of encouragement which, in my humble opinion, is greatly to be preferred to any other, I would clothe them in the cottons and woollens of our own growth and manufacture. Such encouragement has been extended to every article required in the construction and equipment of our ships, as early as it was practicable to do so, consistently with their safety and efficiency; and the only materials for which we are now in any degree dependent on foreign nations, are—saltpetre, sulphur, copper, and hemp. This dependence will soon cease, and ere long all the materials used will be the product of our own country; and allow me to ask, sir, would it not be highly desirable that the personnel of our Navy should be wholly American? This is one of the objects contemplated by the present proposition. None but those born in the United States, or citizens, should be received as apprentices.

Our vessels of war have schoolmasters attached to them at this time, and the boys as now entered are partially taught by them; they receive, however, but little benefit, because they are discharged at the end of the cruise, and falling, as they very generally do, into bad habits, soon forget all they have learned.

My proposition, then, would involve no additional expense for schoolmasters.

The relative expense of the present system, and of that now proposed, consists, essentially, in the difference between the pay at present allowed and the expense of clothing apprentices; thus:

3 years as a boy at \$6,	\$216
2 years ordinary seaman, \$10,	240
2 years able seamen, \$12,	288
7	\$744 00
7 years clothing at \$50,	350
7 years hospital money, a \$2 40,	16 80
	—\$366 80

Difference in favor of the proposed system, in the case of each apprentice, \$377,20

But this is not all; the rations as now established by law might, and indeed ought to be reduced, when applied to apprentices, so far at least as regards the spirits; no prudent master, mindful of the morals and good habits of his apprentice, would think of giving him half a pint of spirit every day, nor would such an allowance be needed in the Navy. Occasionally, after severe exposure, a little might with propriety be allowed; but the habit of giving daily to a boy, almost enough to intoxicate a man, could scarcely fail to produce effects pernicious to the individual and to the public service. At present, each person in the Navy (man and boy) is allowed half a pint of ardent spirits daily, which is equal to 22½ gallons per annum, or 159½ gallons during an apprenticeship of seven years. Every circumstance considered, this allowance might with great propriety and advantage to the individual, be reduced probably to one quart per month, or three gallons per annum, and the saving in that case would be 133 gallons, equal to about seventy dollars, making the whole difference in favor of the proposed system four hundred and forty seven dollars and twenty cents to each apprentice.

To apprentices who by their good conduct should be entitled to certificates of approbation, one hundred dollars, a new suit of clothes, and a few valuable books, might be allowed on their being discharged, and then the saving in every such case, would only be reduced to three hundred dollars.

As to the number of apprentices which might at this time be received, a difference of opinion exists among those who are most competent to judge; the least number is one apprentice for every two guns, the greatest number one for every gun. This would give in the former case 304, and in the latter 608 apprentices for the vessels now employed, the number to be renewed as the apprentices should be raised to the station of ordinary seamen, and able seamen; that is at the end of the first three years, a number equal to that originally engaged in cases where they should be entered at 14 years of age; but if entered at 15 years old, then the number might be renewed every two years, so that before those first entered should have terminated their apprenticeships, we should have in service (taking the minimum) 912 apprentices, or 304 as boys, for six years, 304 as ordinary seamen for four years, and 304 as able seamen for two years; and the expense in six years would be \$182,400 less than that incurred under the present system, without regarding the suggestion as to the spirit, but taking that into the calculation, the saving would be \$224,352.

That the number of apprentices might be increased without in any degree impairing the efficiency of our ships, I confidently believe. Boys 16 or 17 years old who have made two or three voyages to sea, might, to a certain extent, be substituted for ordinary seamen, and by allowing to their parents two or four dollars per month, such boys might be engaged as apprentices. A ship of the line might, particularly in time of peace, take 15 to 20, in place of ordinary seamen; a frigate might take 10, a sloop of war 5 or 6. This would increase the number of apprentices to at least 400, to be entered every two years.

In making the preceding calculations as to the saving of expense, I have purposely avoided considering an apprentice as raised to a station higher than that of able seaman; it will, however, be conceded that many of them would, in all human probability, be qualified, before the termination of their apprenticeships, for the higher station of petty officers. Let us suppose a lad to be bound at the age of 15—in two years becoming an ordinary seaman, in one year thereafter an able seaman, and a petty officer at \$19 per month for the two last years of his apprenticeship—under the present system we should have to pay for such services as follows:—

2 years as a boy,	\$144
1 year as an ordinary seaman,	120
1 year as able seaman,	144
2 years as petty officer,	456

\$364

6 years clothing,	\$300
Hospital money,	14 40
	—\$314 40

\$549 60

To which add the saving in spirit,	59 25
------------------------------------	-------

\$608 85 saving in

every such case.

In such cases, indeed in every case, a moderate monthly allowance might be made to the parents of apprentices—and every allowance heretofore suggested might be added and still the system proposed would greatly reduce the expenses of the navy.

But I am sensible, sir, that this view of the subject, interesting as it is, is not the one most likely to attract the immediate attention of liberal and enlightened statesmen. The obvious tendency of the system, to increase the number of our seamen—to supply our ships with American petty officers—and the means of speedily manning them; to improve their condition in every respect; to raise up a body of men peculiarly attached to the public service—and eager to embrace every opportunity of manifesting their devotion—will plead more powerfully in its support.

PERRY.

## WASHINGTON CITY ;

THURSDAY,.....JUNE 9, 1836.

We have received, and examined with much satisfaction, a pamphlet copy of a "letter to the Hon. Mr. Hawes, in reply to his strictures on the graduates of the Military Academy; by a graduate, late an officer in the U. S. army."

This letter is a triumphant vindication of the slanders (we can call them by no milder term) that have been heaped year after year, upon the officers of our army, and more especially upon the Military Academy, and which we can attribute to no other cause than wilful ignorance or vulgar prejudice. Like every other institution, it is doubtless susceptible of improvement, but its most inveterate enemies can prove nothing that would justify its abolishment.

The letter under consideration is from the press of Messrs. Wiley and Long, of New York, and further than this we have no clue to the author. Whoever he may be, he holds a vigorous and a polished pen. Some portions of the letter are specimens of elegant composition. Almost every objection that has been urged against the Academy is met, argued, and ably refuted. There is one fact, however, to the credit of the Academy, which is not mentioned here, but has been stated elsewhere, and cannot be too often repeated: It is this—that no duel has ever taken place between two of the graduates; and rarely, if ever, has a challenge passed between a graduate and another person. What better argument than this could be adduced to prove the love of order, the existence of the kindest feelings, and the habits of discipline inculcated among the cadets; it should weigh much with the public in favor of the institution, and counterbalance any trifling defects that may be supposed to, or that actually do, exist.

We regret that the preoccupation of our columns forbids our making any extracts from this letter for our present paper. We may, and probably shall, publish large selections from it, if not the entire letter itself.

The translation of our esteemed correspondent, L. is welcome. We hope he may find leisure to continue his labors for the benefit of the readers of the Chronicle. We unite with our correspondent in regretting that more publicity is not given to the scientific information collected by the officers of our navy when abroad.

A brig of war, pierced for 16 guns, was launched from the navy yard at Charlestown, Mass., last week; another brig, of the same size, is nearly ready for launching at New York. These two vessels will bear the names of some of those that have formerly belonged to the navy and were lost.

A novel and picturesque sight was witnessed last week in the harbors of New York and Boston. It is computed that in the former port there were at least two hundred, and in the latter about two hundred and fifty, sail of vessels, to be seen at one and the same time—most of them detained by the adverse winds and the unprecedented bad weather that have prevailed uninterruptedly for two weeks.

The Board which assembled at Baltimore for the examination of midshipmen, adjourned on Thursday last.

The following is a list of the midshipmen who passed, arranged in the order assigned them by the Board.

## CLASS.—1829.

1. John J. Almy,
2. Otway H. Berryman,
3. Edmund Jenkins,
4. Edwin J. De Haven.

## CLASS.—1830.

1. Richard L. Tilghman,
2. Jas. H. Strong,
3. Jas. M. Frailey,
4. Carlisle P. Patterson,
5. William Pope,
6. James L. Heap,
7. George R. Carroll,
8. Augustus S. Baldwin,
9. Edmund T. Shubrick,
10. Stephen Dodd,
11. William B. Whiting.

Warrants, bearing date 4th June, 1836, will be granted to the class of 1830.

Professors Ward and Rodriguez, remained in session for the examination of applicants for the office of professors of mathematics and navigation, in the U. S. Navy.

## BOARD OF VISITERS TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

—The following are the names of the gentlemen who have been invited by the Secretary of War, to attend the annual examination of cadets, at the Military Academy, West Point. The examination commenced on Monday last, on which day, it is presumed, the Board of Visitors was organized.

*Maine.*—Hon. A. Johnson.

*Massachusetts.*—Nathaniel Greene, Esq. Dr. H. W. Childs.

*Connecticut.*—Rev. Dr. Davis.

*Rhode Island.*—Rev. A. H. Dumont.

*New York.*—A. Macdonald, John McLean, John W. Edmonds, James Ryan, Esqrs. Colonel Morgan H. Smith.

*New Jersey.*—John Travers, Esq.

*Pennsylvania.*—James Peacock, B. A. Bidlack, Esqrs. Dr. J. Henderson. Col. James Kinnear. Hon. E. Herrick. Gen. G. M. Kein.

*Maryland.*—Hon. Samuel Smith.

*Virginia.*—R. H. Baptist, Esq.

*North Carolina.*—John Mushat, Esq.

*Georgia.*—A. Iverson, Esq. Gen. — Watson.

*Alabama.*—J. D. Phelan, Esq.

*Tennessee.*—R. C. Foster, H. M. Rutledge Esqrs.

*Kentucky.*—Dr. L. Marshall, Dr. W. H. Richardson.

*Louisiana.*—Col. P. F. Smith.

*Indiana.*—S. W. Norris, S. VanAntwerp, Esqrs.

*Illinois.*—D. J. Baker, Esq.

*U. S. Army.*—Lieut. Col. D. E. Twiggs.

## EDITOR'S CORRESPONDENCE.

"CAMP SABINE, (3 miles from Sabine river,)

April 29, 1836.

"We have, encamped at this place, nine companies of the 6th U. S. Infantry, and five of the 3d Infantry, the whole commanded by General Gaines in person. The 6th is commanded by Major Thompson, and the 3d by Major Nelson.

The officers of the 6th here are—

Captains Palmer, Wickliffe, Noel, and Waters. Adjutant Brooke. Assistant Qr. Mr. Crossman. Surgeon Finley. Assist. Surgeon Hughey. Lieutenants Nute, Van Swearingen, Worth, Dorr, Sevier, Hoffman, Williams, Conrad, Griffin, Center, Ringgold, Campbell, Deforest.

Major Riley, of the 6th, in command at Fort Jesup.

## Officers of the Third Infantry.

Major Belknap. Captains Lewis, Harrison, Walker. Adjutant Wright. Lieutenants Bonnell, Blanchard, Henry, Eaton, Smith.



The Secretary of War has returned to Washington, from his short excursion to the south.

The nominations of all the officers to compose the new regiment of dragoons, have been sent in to the Senate, and will probably be acted upon in time to be announced in our next number. Very few of them are taken from the army.

#### ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

- June 2—Capt. E. A. Hitchcock, 1st inf'y. Fuller's.  
Lieut. A. Montgomery, 7th inf'y. Brown's.  
5—Lieut. C. O. Collins, 4th art'y. Brown's.  
Lieut. J. H. Allen, 3d art'y. Fuller's.  
6—Lieut. J. H. Miller, 4th art'y. Fuller's.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

We publish the following communication, which was referred to in our paper of the 12th ult., having erased those portions which we considered objectionable.

#### THE NEW INFANTRY TACTICS, &c.

"There never was a set of more *amicable* officers—with the exception of a boxing-bout between Captain Shears and the Colonel."—*Major Sturgeon*.

Mr. Editor.—I have a word to say to Philo Clairfait; not upon the general subject of which he writes, but upon an incidental remark which he dropped in the course of his piece.

As to the "New Tactics,"—I have not yet made up my mind whether to think it a very worthless or very useful work. But while I am meditating on this point, I shall always be happy to be aided in my deliberations by the criticisms of the Chronicle. I hope Philo Clairfait will proceed; for, of all employments, criticism is the most instructive and the most amiable. If I am yet in doubt upon the merit of the tactics, I hold a most decided opinion upon the defence of Hindman, and think, with Philo Clairfait, that the annals of literary controversy can produce no example of a writer who dogmatizes with such self-complacent arrogance. The republic of letters is not to be governed like a military command. I had marked one or two points of the defence, on which I intended to comment, but Philo Clairfait has anticipated me, and I will not encumber him with aid. His, doubtless, are like the feelings of the Grecian warrior, when—

Divine Achilles—lest some Greek's advance  
Should snatch the glory from his lifted lance—  
Signed to his troops to yield their foe the way,  
And leave untouched the honors of the day.

When he has bound his dead Hector, and dragged him around the walls of the Chronicle printing office, I shall be ready, like the myrmidons, to bestow a kick or two upon the majestic carcass. The quotation, above, ought to be in the original language—for a critic should never appear less learned than his author—but I suppose the Chronicle has not the Greek type.\* Since Hindman has left the report of the French Commission, and the proper business of his defence, and encroached upon the poets, his critics must follow him; when he parades Horace upon the field, we should encounter him with Homer. But this war is Philo Clairfait's; *sua res agitur*—and he may conduct it as he pleases. I have only to suggest whether the criticisms of the Chronicle may not, with propriety, be extended to matters literary as well as those strictly professional. If so, our great military play-wright has been unjustly neglected. Or, is the muse of Pontiac so repulsive a jade, that no one will touch the hem of her petticoat? Will no curious and gallant young soldier lift her robe and reveal her to himself and the public? We have treated this ingenious production with the same ungenerous indifference as the

learned world did the philosophy and the paradoxes of George (or Moses I forget which) in the Vicar of Wakefield—"the learned said nothing, sir, positively nothing." If Philo Clairfait thinks with me, that the military drama is within the range of military criticism, and will procure me a copy of Pontiac, I will do my poor but most *sincere* endeavour to excoriate the dramatist. The papers have already put him in the pillory, but his punishment is incomplete. This trespasser upon the groves of Parnassus should be scourged away from the abode of those sacred deities. Surely, Melpomene is now "the least a vestal of the virgin nine." We must rescue her from this old gentleman's embrace.

But what I have to say to Philo Clairfait concerns the following sentence: He says, "neither the defence nor the system will escape the scrutiny of the graduates of the Military Academy, (particularly of the *élèves* of Worth) who are taught to enquire for the *reasons* of things, and to investigate before they adopt. If the part of this sentence which is slipped into a parenthesis, as a sort of undertone assertion, be intended *solely* as a tribute to Col. Worth, I have nothing to object. With the evidences of that officer's usefulness at the academy, the history of the institution is crowded. The condition of the army too, in the persons of his "*élèves*" is an honorable witness to his services. But that he is to be distinguished from and above his successor, with "*particular*" ecomium, is what I shall less willingly concede. Nor is it necessary to his elevation that another should be depressed by the contrast. That large body of young officers who are the pupils of Captain Hitchcock will not patiently yield precedence to the "*élèves* of Worth," without, at least, a modest assertion of equality. Colonel Worth may be fond of "*reasons*" and "*investigations*," and may have been successful in inspiring his "*élèves*" with his own habit of accurate thinking and his power of logical enquiry. But Philo Clairfait should not attempt to make "*particular*" distinctions of this nature. To compare one class of men with another requires a nice examination. What he claims for (I suppose) his contemporaries will not be admitted by the graduates of a later day. If this sort of language becomes current among us, we shall soon have pupilage under Worth made the exclusive title and evidence of professional merit. The notion is a narrow one and ought to be exploded.

As to our commandant—we will back him against the field. The young friends and "*élèves*" of Captain Hitchcock will support him at all times, particularly now that he has been assailed. In this last remark I do not allude to Philo Clairfait; but to a late letter of the Quartermaster General, which this subject brings to my mind. I have a word to say on that letter.

The Quartermaster General has been offended by Captain Hitchcock's excellent letter explaining General Gaines' movement in the south; which causes him to deliver an invective upon both the Captain and the old General. His alleged motive is to repel a covert attack on his department which he discovers in Captain Hitchcock's letter. Now, I declare, with the most perfect sincerity, that I read that letter with minute attention, with every willingness to see the errors of the department, and to receive accusations against it, and that I saw nothing, either of assertion or insinuation, calculated to awaken the jealous conscience of General Jesup. On the contrary I did believe, and do believe, that no such censure was intended. Nay, I go further, and will wager that no military man in the country drew from that letter the opinion that the Quartermaster's Department was blamed or blameable. What does Captain Hitchcock say? simply, that General Gaines's "*reasonable expectations*" of finding provisions at Fort King were disappointed. Is that fact an attack on the department? People would naturally say, "General Gaines has miscalculated." Why provisions were not at Fort King, the captain does not say, perhaps he did not know. The probable opinion, under the circumstances, would be, that it could not have been otherwise.

But if General Jesup really feared that his department would be censured, he did right to forestall the judgment

\* The Chronicle office has the Greek type.—Ed.

of the public by timely explanations. With that he should have contented himself. His disquisition on military science (or what he calls the "maxims of war") is wholly impertinent. Perhaps it is one among his "maxims" to carry the war into Africa. I appeal to the generous candor of every officer, a feeling inseparable from an honorable military spirit, to decide whether General Jesup's motive was to defend himself or to assail General Gaines. When he talks of a "movement contrary to rule" and "resulting in failure," and "which nothing but the most complete success could justify," is he defending the Quartermaster's Department? or the sneer about "the high attribute of genius dispensing with ordinary rules!" or the delicate and pretty sarcasm which concludes his letter? "the responsibility, as well as the honor, is all his own." "I must be excused from sharing either." Is all this a manly, bona-fide defence of himself? Let the army judge.

The New York American is pleased to commend General Jesup for the terseness of his style. His rhetoric is not a matter of much importance. Though I do not perceive its remarkable excellence in this particular.

A writer in the Globe, or the Intelligencer, complains that Captain Hitchcock omits all mention of General Scott. The writer forgets the object of Captain H's letter. He was describing a campaign, not writing eulogies; and therefore could not with propriety deviate into any gratuitous and irrelevant panegyric of Scott. A puff of the commanding general would have been equally appropriate. The Captain's taste and character, perhaps, do not qualify him for an indiscriminate eulogist.

X.

#### FRENCH SCIENTIFIC VOYAGE.

MR. EDITOR:—I herewith enclose for your paper, part of a translation of some scientific instructions, drawn up by the French academy for the officers of a French Government armed store ship, making a voyage round the world.

It is to be regretted that the scientific information collected by our ships of war and naval officers, is not made more public; as in addition to the advantage it might be to individual enterprise, it would doubtless reflect great credit on us as a nation.

L.

#### INSTRUCTIONS.

[Translated for the Army and Navy Chronicle.]

DEPARTURE OF THE "CORVETTE DE CHARGE, LA BONITE," CAPT. VAILLANT, ON A VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD.—(Dec. 1835.)

The "Bonite" will leave Toulon in Jan. 1836, and reach Rio Janeiro in March; then doubling Cape Horn, will touch on the western coast of South America, (at Chili, and Peru,) in August; and at the Archipelago of the Southern Ocean, (the Sandwich islands, etc.) in October of the same year; the ship will arrive in the China seas about December, with the commencement of the N. E. Monsoon, which place it will quit in February, 1837, for the coast of Coromandel, where it will arrive about April; and return to Europe by the Cape of Good Hope.

This vessel, as was stated by the Minister of the Marine, to the academy of sciences, was not destined by the Government to any scientific mission, the principal object being to take several of the consuls to their places of residence.

Nevertheless, Admiral Dupèrre having proposed to the academy, it is thought proper to profit by the occasion, to make researches at the different points at which the vessel would touch in this circumnavigation. M. Mirbel, Cordier, Blainville, Freycinet, and Arago, were deputed by the academy to draw up such instructions as would serve as a basis to the labors of the offi-

cers of the "Bonite," among whom were M. Darondeau, one of the hydrographical engineers; M. Gaudichaud, naturalist, who accompanied M. Quoy and Gaymard, in the expedition of the "Astroble," also M. Eydoux, surgeon, who was in the expedition in the "Favorite."

The instructions, of which we have just spoken, may in the future guide other navigators, and philosophers in foreign countries, who may think proper to undertake investigations that will in every respect so much enlarge the bounds of science, and it is with this view that they are published.

*Instructions respecting navigation and hydrography: drawn up by M. Freycinet.*

Our talented officers of the Navy are perfectly aware of the importance of the nautical and hydrographical observations that may be made at sea or in a harbor, and they are fully capable of executing them with precision. In this respect they have only to follow the precepts which have been laid down by a learned academician, M. Beautemps Beaupré, whose magnificent works are at present in the hands of every navigator.

To the spirit of scientific enterprise which has animated the principal maritime nations of Europe for more than a century, we are indebted for a hydrographical knowledge of the principal portions of the earth's surface; all the masses have been seen and fixed in their relative positions; there remain, therefore, at present, but the details to determine. But this task, less brilliant than the first, is also more dangerous, more difficult, and requires a much longer time. In the first case, the existence of an island, a harbor, or an archipelago, is ascertained, of which a drawing at sight will indicate the most prominent features: but, in the second, it is necessary to enter the smallest openings, to follow the sinuosities of the whole coast, determine the reefs, the shoals, and other dangers; to move with the lead in hand, in order to find the best anchorages; then penetrating into the interior of the country, to observe the productions of the three kingdoms, in their connection with the marine and other sciences.

*Maps and Charts.* We will not insist, in the following directions, upon the necessity and importance of charts. The officers of the "Bonite" will doubtless lose no occasion to augment in this respect the quantity of our positive knowledge, nor show less zeal than their predecessors.

*Description of the countries visited.* As far as any stoppage will permit, they will join to the preceding labors a circumstantial account of the coasts and countries visited; stating the productions and resources, as well for supplying ships, as for the interests of commerce. They will also state the manner of finding an anchorage and avoiding shoals; lastly, there will be found in the manners, the religion, and customs of the inhabitants, matter for many curious and important remarks.

*Astronomical observations.* They will be equally sensible of the necessity of multiplied observations of the latitude and longitude, to fix with the precision required in the present state of nautical astronomy, the absolute or relative position of the principal stations.

*Tides.* The tides will also give rise to many highly interesting experiments, if sufficient time can be afforded. The academy is very desirous that the officers of the "Bonite" should determine at different periods in the day, during the stoppages, the directions, force, and variation of the currents, the greatest and least tide, and also the time of high water.

*Winds.* The study of the winds, their prevalence and force; the dangers to which they expose ships, the time of year and day at which they blow, their periodical variation and direction, the indications that announce them, their coincidence with good and bad weather, will very usefully employ the leisure of the officers of the "Bonite." It is important that observations of this nature should be made with care, and as far as possible at stated periods, as well at sea as in the harbors, so as to be able to connect them with the barometrical and thermometrical observations which will be spoken of in another part of these instructions.



*Specimens of fresh water.* Specimens of about a gallon of water, taken from the different watering places, and preserved in well-stopped bottles, will be very valuable at the return of the expedition, in determining their degree of purity and salubrity, a question by no means foreign to the preservation of the health of the crew.

*Philological researches.* The knowledge of the languages of the almost unknown inhabitants of the distant seas is matter of important consideration to navigators and philologists, as well as to the learned who are occupied in studying the history of man. It is much to be desired that the expedition of the "Bonite" should procure in this respect all the information possible. It may not be unnecessary to mention, that simple collections of words, classed in vocabulary, are of much less importance to science than phrases or continued conversations; in fact the words may always be found in the phrases. But it is not possible to construct sentences from words alone. It will also be necessary to have the translation of at least a part of the pieces collected, and to mark carefully the pronunciation or value of each letter made use of. The academy is desirous that the officers of the "Bonite" should pay particular attention to the language of the Sandwich Islands, which already possess books printed in the island; also the language of the Tagale and Papanga nations, in the island Suzon; and lastly, upon that of the Hottentots at the Cape of Good Hope, a language much neglected at the present day, notwithstanding the many voyages of Europeans to this part of South Africa.

*Instructions relating to the physical state of the Globe:  
drawn up by M. Arago.*

When the Academy charged us, some two weeks since, to draw up a sort of programme, in which would be compressed such of the questions relating to the physical state of the globe, as it might be desirable to recommend to the officers of the "Bonite," the difficulty of the duty was not so apparent; these difficulties were, however, but too real, and it must be avowed without equivocation, that we have not been able to surmount them. There is, however, some excuse in the brevity of the time allowed, but still further in the obligation which it was impossible to neglect, of consecrating the greater portion of the time to the examination and verification of the numerous and excellent instruments with which our young countrymen have been provided; a favor to be attributed to the deference the Minister of Marine has been pleased to show to the wishes of the academy.

The question, as to what form would it be most proper to give to this part of the instructions, was particularly embarrassing. To point out experiments without any explanation as to the voids in science which they are destined to fill, would doubtless have been the shortest method; but every thing considered, it appeared preferable to accompany the announcement of each problem, with such developements as would show its importance. By this means, the officers of the "Bonite" would become at once associated in the learned investigations their researches should bring to light and their perseverance and zeal would receive a new excitement.

*Meteorological Observations.*

In meteorology, we must be contented to make observations which for the present may not lead to any important consequence: it must be an endeavor to leave to our successors terms of comparison, of which we are deficient; to prepare for them the means of resolving numerous important questions which we are not permitted to approach, since antiquity was not in possession of either the barometer or thermometer.

These simple reflections will be sufficient to explain why it is desired that *during the whole course of the voyage of the "Bonite," by day and by night, at every hour, a note should be taken of the temperature of the air, the temperature of the surface of the ocean, and the pressure of the atmosphere.* It will be sufficient to express a

hope that this series of observations will be made with the zeal, of which the officers of the "Uranie," the "Coquille," the "Astroble," the "Chevette," and the "Soiret," have given such an example. If, however, circumstances which cannot be foreseen, should cause a portion of this work to be abandoned, it will be better to sacrifice the least essential parts, and the details which it is proposed to add, may be of assistance in such a case, in directing the choice of the commander.

*Has the Earth arrived at a permanent state of temperature?*

The solution of this important question seems only to require the immediate and direct comparison of the mean temperature, *at the same place*, taken at distant periods of time. But upon further reflection, in taking into view the effect of local circumstances, in observing in what degree the neighborhood of a lake, a forest, an arid or wooded mountain, will modify the temperature, every one will at once comprehend that the data from the thermometer alone will not suffice; it will be necessary to ascertain in addition, that the country in which the experiments are made, and even the neighboring countries, have not experienced any physical change, or great variation in the methods of cultivation.

This, it will be seen, causes the question to become singularly complicated; to positive and characteristic numbers, of an exactness susceptible of being accurately appreciated, there are combined vague doubts, in the presence of which, a sound judgment must continually remain in suspense.

Is there then no means of resolving this difficulty? This means exists, and is not difficult: it consists in observing the temperature, *in the ocean far removed from any continent.* Added to this, if the equinoctial regions are selected, it will not even require many years; the maximum temperature observed in two or three times crossing the line will amply suffice.

In fact, in the Atlantic Ocean, the extremes of temperature, determined up to the present by a number of navigators, are from 27° to 29° centigrades. In taking into consideration the errors of graduation, it is well understood that with a good instrument, the uncertainty from one single observation of the maximum of temperature of the equatorial Atlantic Ocean, will not surpass one degree, and that from a mean of four distinct determinations, a very small portion of a degree. Here is thus a result easily obtained, directly connected with the heating and cooling causes upon which depends the temperature of the earth, and as far disengaged as possible from the influence of local circumstances. Here is also a date in meteorology that every age should endeavor to leave to the ages following. The officers of the "Bonite" will certainly not neglect this part of the instructions. The excellent instruments that have been confided to them, permits us to expect all the exactness which the present state of science demands and requires.

Animated discussions have arisen among meteorologists with respect to the calorific effect produced by the absorption of the solar rays in different countries. Some have cited observations made in the Arctic circle, from which this strange consequence seems to result, *that the solar rays heat more powerfully in high than in low latitudes.* Others reject this result, or at least affirm that it is not proved; in their opinion the equatorial observations, taken as terms of comparison, are not sufficiently numerous, and do not appear to have been made under favorable circumstances. This research appears worthy the attention of the officers of the "Bonite." For this experiment it will be necessary to have two thermometers, of which the recipients may on the one hand, absorb the sun's rays unequally, and on the other, not to experience too sensibly the cooling effects of currents of air. This double condition may be satisfied, if, after providing two similar thermometers, the bulb of one be covered with a small thickness of white wool, and that of the other in the same manner with black. These two instruments exposed to the sun, side by side, will never mark the same degree, the black

thermometer always raising the highest; the question then consists in determining if the difference of these two indications is less at the equator than at Cape Horn.

It will be remembered that comparative observations of this nature should be made with the sun at equal altitudes, and at the most calm and serene times. Small differences in height, however, will not prevent the calculation of the observations, if care has been taken in the different latitudes to determine from the rising of the sun till meridian, and thence till sun set, the progression according to which the difference of the two instruments has increased during the first period, and diminished during the second. Windy days should always be excluded, whatever may be the state of the atmosphere.

An analogous observation with that of the black and white thermometers consists in determining the maximum of temperature in the equinoctial regions, which the sun may communicate to an arid soil. At Paris, in the month of August, 1326, under a calm clear sky, it was found that a thermometer laid horizontally, the bulb being covered with a coat of very fine vegetable earth, to the thickness of one millimetre, stood at  $+54^{\circ}$ . The same instrument, covered with two millimetres of river sand, only marked  $+46^{\circ}$ .

The experiment that we have just proposed may also serve to measure the diaphaneity of the atmosphere. This diaphaneity may also be appreciated in an inverse and not less interesting manner by observations on nocturnal radiation, which will be recommended to the officers of the "Bonite."

It has been known this half century that when the atmosphere is clear a thermometer, placed on the grass in a field, will mark  $6^{\circ}$ ,  $7^{\circ}$ , and even  $8^{\circ}$  centigrades lower than a similar thermometer suspended in the air, at a small elevation above the surface; but it has been but a few years since this phenomenon has been explained; since 1817 only, when Wells proved by numerous and important experiments, that this inequality of temperature was caused by radiation in a clear sky.

A screen, placed between any solid body whatever and the sky, prevents its cooling, because this screen intercepts all radiation with the frozen regions of the firmament. The clouds act in this manner, and take the place of the screen. But if we call clouds all vapour, intercepting portions of the sun's rays in their descent, or calorific rays ascending from the earth to celestial space, it cannot be said there is ever an atmosphere entirely devoid. There will always be a greater or less difference. These differences, however small they may be, will be indicated by the nocturnal cooling of solid bodies, and even with this peculiarity, worthy of remark, that the diaphaneity which is measured in this manner, is the mean diaphaneity of the whole firmament, and not that alone of the circumscribed region which the planet may at that time occupy. In order to make this experiment under advantageous circumstances, it will evidently be necessary to choose those bodies that cool the quickest by radiation. From the remarks of Wells, it is swan's down that must be used: a thermometer, of which the bulb should be covered with swan's down, should be placed upon a painted wooden table with very small supports, in a situation from whence the whole horizon may be visible. A second thermometer, with the bulb exposed, should be suspended in the air, at some distance from the ground; a screen should protect it from all radiation towards space. In England Wells has obtained between the indications of the two thermometers, thus placed, as great a difference as  $80^{\circ}$  3 centigrades. It will certainly be very surprising if, in the equinoctial regions, so much extolled for the purity of the atmosphere, less results should always be found. There will be, doubtless, no occasion to enlarge on the utility of these experiments, if made in a high mountain, such, for instance, as Mowna-Roa, or Mowna-Kaah, in the Sandwich Islands. The temperature of the atmospheric strata is less in proportion as the strata are more elevated. There is no exception to this rule, except at night, when it is very calm and clear; then, up

to certain heights, an increasing progression is observed; thus, from the experiments of Pictet, to whom the discovery of this anomaly is due, a thermometer, suspended in the air at 2 metres above the earth, will mark, during the night,  $2^{\circ}$  or  $3^{\circ}$  centigrades less than a similar thermometer suspended in the air, but at 15 or 20 metres higher.

When it is remembered that solid bodies at the surface of the earth pass by radiation, when the sky is clear, to a temperature very much inferior to that of the surrounding air, it will not be doubted but that this air, in time, and by virtue of contact, will participate in this cooling, and in a greater degree as it is nearer the surface. Here, it will be seen, is a plausible explanation of the curious fact pointed out by the Philosopher of Geneva. Our young navigators may give this explanation the character of a true demonstration if they repeat the experiment of Pictet at sea; if under a calm and clear sky, they will compare at night a thermometer placed on the deck with one at the mast head.

It is not that the upper surface of the ocean does not experience the effects of nocturnal radiation, as the swan's down, wool, grass, &c; but as its temperature diminishes, this portion sinks, since it has become specifically denser than the liquid immediately below. There is not to be expected, in this case, the very great degree of cooling observed by Wells on certain bodies near the surface of the Earth, nor the anomalous cooling of the lower part of the atmosphere which seems to be the consequence. All this would lead to the supposition that the increasing progression of the temperature of the atmosphere, observed on land does not exist on the ocean, and that the thermometer on the deck and that at the mast-head will mark very nearly the same degree. The experiment, however, is not the less worthy of being made; in the view of a prudent philosopher, there is an immense distance between the result of a conjecture and that of an observation.

Meteorology to be continued; also the barometer, rain, terrestrial magnetism, luminous meteors, zodiacal light, aurora borealis, rainbow, halos, trade-winds, currents, height of waves, visibility of shoals, water-spouts, depression of horizon, raising of the coast of Chili, earthquake, height of mountains.

#### DOCUMENTS.

Accompanying the report of Gen. Scott to the War Department, dated May 11 1836, published in our last number.

HEAD QUARTERS RIGHT WING, FLA. ARMY, }  
Fort Drane, 27th April, 1836. }

SIR: My report of this date will inform you of the operations of the right wing since we left Tampa bay. The four companies of mounted volunteers from Georgia have been ordered to return to their homes. The two companies, from Augusta, commanded by Captains Robinson and Bones, took up the line of march this morning for Augusta, *via* Picolata; and the Louisiana volunteers left sick at this post when that gallant regiment left this, will march in the morning under the command of Lieutenant Wright, with the wagon train, for Gary's ferry, there to await your orders and transportation. There will be upwards of one hundred men who will leave in the morning, that will require transportation on their arrival at Gary's ferry. The disposition of the regular troops, so as to give the greatest protection and security to the inhabitants and their property, is one of much difficulty, and owing to my peculiar situation is one of great delicacy, but it must be met. As it is generally considered that occupancy and defence of this post is one of much importance to the military operations against the Indians, I have deemed it necessary to garrison it with five companies of artillery and Captain Wharton's company of dragoons, from which a strong detachment will be sent to protect the property and provisions at Oakland, about fourteen miles northeast from this post. I would strongly recommend the remounting of the whole of Captain Wharton's



company with the least possible delay, as I consider it impossible to give quiet and protection to the country, without this species of force to aid and assist the troops acting as infantry: I shall order one company to take post at or near Micanopy, and the remaining company to Fort King, and I do not think this force sufficient to keep the Indians within their former limits, without the aid of one hundred and fifty or two hundred mounted men from the adjacent counties. It is believed, that if proper encouragement is given, that two or three companies of mounted volunteers can be raised for the period of six months, as many of the inhabitants will be prevented from making crops this year, and will, of course, be out of employment; and if not employed by the Government, will be compelled to leave the country with their families. These men are well acquainted with the country, and could, with the assistance of the regular troops, scour that part of it lying between the settlements and the enemy, so as to deter them, except in very small parties, from harassing the settlements. These men should be permitted to subsist themselves and horses as far as practicable, should they prefer doing so, as it is believed this plan would be most convenient to themselves and less expensive to the Government, as their horses could do with very little corn when well grazed. I would, therefore, respectfully, but strongly recommend the raising of this force as soon as practicable, and of stationing it at some point that will give the greatest protection to the country. About 2 o'clock on the morning of the 20th inst. the Indians made an attack on this place, but were met and repulsed by the garrison, commanded by Captain Lendrum. They succeeded, however, in carrying off three of my negroes and seventeen public horses. On the night of the 25th instant, the cotton and gin-house belonging to Col. McIntosh, was burnt, and the loss estimated at about five thousand dollars. The accompanying letter contains all the information received from the command established on the Withlacoochee, and unless relieved by Major Reed, I am fearful the situation will be a critical one. The major must, however, have reached that point long ere this.

I am Sir, with high respect,

Your most ob't serv't,

D. L. CLINCH.

Brig. Gen. U. S. A.

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF FLA., }  
St. Augustine, May 7, 1836. }

SIR: I have had no late intelligence from the vicinity of Fort Drane. The last was orally received by Captain Drane.

On reflection, I am now willing to receive into the service of the United States, for six months, unless sooner discharged, one company of mounted Floridians, to aid in the defence of the Alachua settlements. This force, to be accepted, must be strictly organized according to the act of 1792, viz: 64 privates, four corporals, four sergeants, two musicians, one captain, one first and one second lieutenant, and one ensign or cornet. The two musicians are not indispensable, and more than 64 privates, say 70 or 80, would be received with the four officers. My meaning is, that the number of officers must not exceed four to sixty four privates. If a force of that extent can be raised in the Alachua settlements, let it be done as soon as practicable, and let application be made to the Governor for the commissions of the officers. Without waiting for the instructions of the War Department, I will instantly cause the company to be mustered into the service of the United States.

With Wharton's detachment of the United States dragoons, light companies of the United States foot, and the proposed company of mounted men, I am persuaded that the Alachua settlements may be easily defended till the return of the season for recommencing active operations against the enemy.

Please cause a copy of this letter to be sent to the Governor of Florida, and let it be generally known, in the neighboring settlements, that a company of mounted

men are wanted and will be accepted. Correspond with such individuals as may be known to be willing to aid in raising that force, and give all the encouragement in your power.

I have acted on but few applications for leave of absence which have reached me from the neighborhood of Fort Drane. A few only of the officers, who have obtained certificates of disability, may be permitted, in extreme cases, to retire, and to make their application to me at this place.

A steamer (the Cherokee) is now at Picolata, to receive discharged troops there or at Gary's ferry; she will be detained a few days longer, to await the arrival of Major Cooper's battalion.

I remain, with great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Brig. Gen. CLINCH, or

U. S. Officer commanding Fort Drane.

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF FLORIDA, }  
St. Augustine May 11, 1836. }

[Order No. 46.]

The commander of the left wing will immediately cause to be mounted two of the companies of the United States artillery of this wing, using for that purpose the horses of the baggage train.

The companies, under a system of instructions which will be framed, will be immediately employed in patrolling and scouring the frontiers and other exposed settlements this side of the St. Johns.

The three remaining companies of the same regiment will be placed in such positions as to afford the best points of support for the mounted companies.

By command of Major General SCOTT.

J. E. JOHNSTON,

A. D. C. and A. A. Adjutant General.

From the New Orleans True American, May 7.

Yesterday afternoon about four o'clock, our ears were saluted with the sound from two companies of the patriotic and gallant Louisiana volunteers from Florida, who had just arrived, and were enjoying themselves like good fellows, at Banks' Arcade, where our old friend Hewlett very kindly furnished them with refreshments.

While penning the above, we were politely furnished by Major Clark, quarter master of the U. S. army, with the following order from the head quarters of the army in Florida, which will no doubt prove highly interesting to our readers:

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF FLORIDA, }  
Tampa Bay, April 16, 1836. }

Order No 37—The Louisiana regiment of volunteers, under the gallant Col. Persifer F. Smith, will on its return to this place, immediately proceed to New Orleans in the best transports that the quartermaster's department can supply. It will first turn into store the arms and other property of the United States in its possession, and which may not be necessary to the comfort of the regiment on its passage home.

At New Orleans, Major Clark will muster the regiment out of the service of the U. States, and it will at the same time be paid by the paymaster of the army stationed in that city.

What may be the result of the expedition to Charlotte Harbor and Pease Creek, in which the regiment is at present engaged, cannot be known to the commanding general in some weeks. Judging from the past, these results cannot fail to be highly honorable to the colonel, the officers and men of that efficient corps, which is already entitled to the thanks of the country.

Dr. Lawson, the senior surgeon of the U. S. Army, who, under a commission from the state of Louisiana, has served as lieutenant colonel of this regiment, and who has superadded the distinction of arms to his high medical reputation, will temporarily take charge of the general hospital at this place as soon as the great body

of the sick shall have been restored and sent off to their respective states. Surgeon Lawson will return to his proper station.

By order of Winfield Scott, Major Gen. Commanding,

J. E. JOHNSTON, *A. Adj. Gen.*

### DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

#### SEMINOLE WAR.

We are compelled to curtail our extracts, in relation to the Seminole as well as the Creek Campaigns.

Information has been received of the death of Captain Holloman, who was left in a block house on the Withlacoochee in command of a detachment. Lieut. L. B. Walker, who succeeded to the command, sent an express at great risk, to the late Major McLemore, stating that they were in a starving condition and in need of succor. A volunteer expedition of 89 men left Tallahassee on the 20th ult. to relieve the besieged.

ST. AUGUSTINE, May 26.—Pursuant to the orders of the Governor, the militia of the Territory, east of the St. Johns river, have been called out, and nearly all volunteered themselves to serve for a period of 4 months. A company of mounted men, and one of foot, have been formed, consisting of 60 men each. They go out with a spirit and determination to wipe away the foul aspersions that have been cast upon them.

Capt. Dimick and Lieut. Irwin's companies of U. S. troops, were sent out to scour the country around St. Joseph's last week; they returned on the 19th, having scoured the country for twelve miles on the Volusia road, without having discovered any fresh trails. A negro, who had been taken a prisoner by the Indians, made his escape from them, and was found in the woods by the troops. He states that the Indians were well provided with every thing they required, Ammunition, Pork, Bread, Rice, Beef, &c. Some cartridge boxes, which they had found, contained cartridges, and the powder they ground fine between two boards, and filled their horns. The main body of the Indians east of the St. Johns, were encamped about 20 miles south of Spring Garden, and a party of 30 were at Tomoka.

The St. Augustine Herald of the 28th ult. says—We learn that every building between Black Creek and Newnansville has been destroyed by the Indians; the posts of Fort King, Fort Drane and the settlements of Micanopy and Newnansville will have to be abandoned, because it will be impossible to maintain them."

#### LATEST FROM THE ST. JOHNS.

The steam packet Florida, Capt. Hebbard, arrived here this morning from Picolata, via Jacksonville. We learn that a few days since a large force of Indians, (some say 200,) appeared near the Fort at Micanopy, and fired upon the Fort. A man, formerly of Capt. Merchett's company, U. S. Artillery, was it is said killed and scalped last week, near Micanopy. He has been engaged, of late, as a teamster.

We understand that Picolata will be retained as a post so as to inspire confidence in the planters below that place and not compel them to leave their plantations to the unsparing savage.—*Savannah Georgian.*

PENSACOLA, May 21.—The U. S. Cutter Washington, (now acting with the Navy) arrived here on Wednesday last, bringing dispatches for Commodore Dallas. The Washington left Tampa Bay on the 13th inst. Capt. Jones informs us that all the American citizens at Charlotte Harbour and its vicinity had fled to Passage Island, at the entrance of Tampa Bay, and had associated themselves with the people in the employment of Capt. William Bunce, making an aggregate number, including women and children, of about two hundred souls.

The U. S. ship Concord, Capt. Mix, was in the Bay and had a large boat expedition out in pursuit of the hostile Seminoles in the vicinity of Sarasota.

It was reported at Tampa on the 12th inst. that the body of the late Doctor Crews, Inspector at Charlotte Harbour, had been found near Sanabel River, that his body was dreadfully mutilated, and his boat's crew were also found near the boat scalped.

The schooner Levin Jones, arrived at Fort Brooke on the 12th, loaded with provisions for the troops, taken from the steam boat Shark, Capt. Thomas, bound from New Orleans to Fort Brooke, but got on shore at or near Apalachicola.

The Washington left here on Friday last for Tampa Bay, with despatches.

The U. S. Revenue Cutter Jefferson, Capt. Jackson, arrived here from a cruise on Thursday last.—*Gazette.*

The steamboat Shark, chartered by the United States, to go to Tampa Bay, in endeavoring to cross the bar at Apalachicola, struck and received such injury as will cause her to be abandoned.

Commodore DALLAS, in a letter dated Pensacola, May 16, informs the merchants of New Orleans, that, the U. S. Schooner Grampus would be off the Balize on the 21st inst. to afford convoy to American vessels destined for any of the ports of Mexico—and likewise to bring from any of the Mexican ports, specie belonging to American merchants. The Warren sloop of war now on that coast, had similar orders.

#### CREEK WAR.

CHARLESTON, May 30.—The steam packet South Carolina, Capt. Rollins, arrived at this port on Saturday evening, in a passage of 48 hours from Norfolk.

The South Carolina has brought nearly 200 U. S. troops, consisting of companies I. 4th Regt. Artillery; I. 1st Regt. Artillery; B. 3d Regt. Artillery; B. 4th Regt. Artillery; commanded by Captain Lyon, and accompanied by Capt. Washington, Lieuts. D. H. Vinton, McClellan, T. J. Lee, Sitgreaves, and Archer. Gen. Fenwick, and his aid Capt. Thompson; Lieut. Waite, of the quartermaster's department; Lieut. Chambers, of the subsistence department; and Major Smith, paymaster. They all departed by the rail road early this morning for Augusta.—*Patriot.*

The Norfolk Beacon says.—The detachment of troops under Gen. Fenwick which left Fort Monroe on the 26th ult. landed at Charleston on the 28th, and were in Augusta on the 30th, having crossed the entire state of South Carolina; a movement accomplished in four days by the agency of steam, which would have required as many weeks without it. From Augusta the troops will have a fatiguing march across the whole state of Georgia, from East to West, to Fort Mitchell.

We learn that an accident occurred on the rail road from Charleston to Augusta, by which several of the cars were thrown off, and three or four men of Capt. Washington's company seriously hurt.

The three companies from New York had not arrived at Charleston on Friday.

The Milledgeville Journal, of the 31st ult. says:—"Major General Winfield Scott, charged, as we understand, with the command and direction of the campaign against the Creek Indians, arrived by stage in this place on Saturday evening. Brigadier Gen. Jesup, and Major Kirby, of the U. S. army, were with him.

"Major General Scott, on his arrival, appointed Augustus H. Kenan, Esq. of Milledgeville, one of his aids-de-camp.

"On Sunday morning, Gen. Scott, Gen. Jesup, Maj. Kirby, Gov. Schley, and Maj. Patterson, one of the aids of Maj. Gen. Sanford of the Georgia Troops, left in the

\* We have observed in several papers, that Gen. Jesup is called a *Brigadier*; he is a *Major General by brevet*, the same commissions Gaens. Gaines and Scott hold.—*Ed. A. & N. C.*



stage for Columbus. Maj. A. H. Kenan, we understand, will join the staff of Gen. Scott, at Columbus, on Thursday next."

Through the politeness of a gentleman, a resident of Mariana, West Florida, who left there on Monday, the 23d inst. and arrived last evening by the rail road, we learn that 200 mounted men, well armed and equipped, were to have left that place in a day or two for the Creek Nation. Three men had been previously dispatched as expresses, but had not returned when our informant left.

The Steamer Metamora had gone up the Chattahoochee river with a strong guard, on Saturday, the 21st, to reconnoitre.

On Tuesday night last, our informant conversed with the mail carrier, coming from Fort Gaines to Bainbridge, (Ga.) who stated that a body of Indians had attacked the town of Irwinton, Ala.—but were repulsed, with a considerable loss on their side, but very little damage to the whites.

At Mariana, a stockade had been completed for the defence of the place, and no apprehensions felt for its safety.—*Charleston Courier*.

#### DOMESTIC MISCELLANY.

**JUAN FERNANDEZ, A WHALING DEPOT.**—The island, and those adjacent, in the Pacific Ocean, lying in the longitude of 79 deg. W. and the latitude 33 deg. 39 min. S. celebrated as the residence of Alexander Selkirk, upon whose adventures Defoe predicated his admirable Robinson Crusoe, has become the property of an American citizen, who has secured it from the Chilian Government for a long term of years. It has heretofore been the depot for the banished convicts; but the expense and constant rising of the prisoners caused the Chilian Government to abandon it. The gentleman who has secured it intends emigrating there, taking with him one or two hundred families from the Sandwich Islands, for the purpose of cultivation and the breeding of cattle; himself to exercise exclusive control in the government of the Island. His arrangements are very extensive, and it is his intention to lay down buoys in the principal harbor for the benefit of whalers, who will be furnished with every kind of supplies from his store, which will be stocked with every thing which they may require. He will make advances on their bills upon home at the usual rates. Boats to tow in and out without expense will also be furnished. Cumberland Harbor is safe, and the advantages it offers to whalers are great; all port charges will be avoided, and the difficulties arising from the desertion of the crew will be entirely provided against—which are no small considerations, and have ever been great drawbacks upon the successful termination of those voyages.

The crew generally consists of characters of all kinds, and in the time employed for the cruise, difficulties will arise, from the bad conduct of such, who, to escape the effects of their bad conduct on shore, repair to these vessels as a dernier resort, and by their insubordination and insolence, set an example which renders necessary that harsh treatment which is so often noticed in our own journals. The island, it is said, in the mountainous parts abound with Sandal and other valuable woods, and its shores are the resorts of the fur seal, whilst the interior is unrivalled for scenery and purity of atmosphere. From the well known perseverance of the gentleman who has been fortunate enough to secure this valuable prize, the success of the project cannot fail of proving successful to himself and of immense consequences to the owners and captains of vessels engaged in the South Sea Fisheries.—*N. Y. Star*.

**EXTRAORDINARY MORTALITY ON SHIP BOARD.**—The whaling ship Richmond, of New Bedford, Capt. Tucker, had arrived at St. Simons, March 26th, from Madagascar, where she had just put in to recruit. A few days after leaving port, several of the crew complained of sickness, and in ten days 10 had died.

**SEIZURE.** The schr. Oriental, Crosby, from Cuba for Boston, was boarded in Tarpaulin Cove on the 5th inst. by Capt. Day of the Revenue Cutter McLane. After examining the manifest of the schooner, as was his duty, Capt. D. discovered a quantity of goods on board, of which there appeared no record. Eighteen thousand five hundred Spanish cigars were found, and seized as forfeit to the government. Capt Crosby stated that he did not know that they were on board; after which the mate acknowledged that they were his, and were taken on board in the night at Cuba without the knowledge or consent of the master.—*New Bedford Gazette*.

#### TO MARINERS.

Consulate of the United States,  
Cowes, 30th April 1836.

SIR: Agreeably to a former communication I now hand you the following Notice to Mariners.

#### LIGHT HOUSE ON THE START POINT.

Trinity House, London, 27th April, 1836.

Notice is hereby given, that a light will be exhibited in the Light House which has been erected on the Start Point, on the Coast of Devonshire, on the evening of Friday the first of July next, and thenceforth continued every night, from sunset to sunrise, for the benefit of navigation.

The character of this Light, which will burn at an elevation of 204 feet above the level of the sea, at high water spring-tides, will be that of a Powerful Revolving Light, showing a brilliant Flash, at regulated intervals of one minute; and in addition thereto a Stationary Light will also be exhibited in the same Light House, in the direction of the Berry Head.

#### PORTLAND HIGH LIGHT.

Notice is also given, that on and after the said 1st of July next, the High Light at Portland will cease to be exhibited as a Revolving Light, and will be thenceforth continued as a Fixed or Stationary Light, together with the Low Light, both being visible as fixed Lights, in the same direction seaward as heretofore. By order:

J. HERBERT, Secretary.

**NEW ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC.** The Awashonks at Falmouth on her late cruise in the Pacific, discovered islands that are not laid down on any map yet published. The first was discovered March 8th, 1835, in lon. 165 East. Some of the crew landed and found it covered with large wood, fertile and uninhabited.

The second discovery, was made Oct. 8th, four in the group, lying 85 miles east of the Patterson Islands, about in the same latitude. They were passed in the night. The size and relative situation could not be accurately ascertained.—*Barnstable Journal*.

**HONOR TO THE BRAVE.**—Gen. Clinch, on landing at St. Mary's was escorted to his lodgings by Major Cooper's battalion, addressed the volunteers, was responded to by Major C., and the whole, after a salute from Capt. Holland's corps, partook of Capt. H.'s hospitality.—*Savannah Georgian*.

#### PASSENGERS.

**CHARLESTON, June 1.**—Per brig Lawrence, from New York—Maj. Lomax, Lieut. R. D. A. Wade, and 53 U. S. soldiers. Per steam packet Columbia, from New-York—Maj. Weed, of the Marine Corps, and Lieut. Lane, of the Army.

**MOBILE, May 17.**—Per steamboat Watchman, from Pensacola, Lt. E. T. Doughty, of the navy.

**NEW ORLEANS, May 16.**—Per steamboat Arab, from Columbus, Geo., Lieut. Rowan, of the navy.

#### LETTERS ADVERTISED.

**Norfolk, June 1, 1836.**—Captains Fitzhugh, and Ballard, of the Navy.

Midshipmen Sinclair, Shubrick, Henderson, Hunter, Dade, Baldwin, Vanalstyne, Borland, Kennedy, Auze, Patterson, Dulen, Johnston, Lewis.

## ARMY.

## OFFICIAL.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, June 2, 1836.

GENERAL ORDER,  
No. 36.

By direction of the President of the United States, B't. Maj. THOMAS F. HUNT, Assistant Quarter Master, is assigned to the duties of Quarter Master General, under the direction of the Secretary of War, during the temporary absence of the Brevet Major General Thomas S. Jesup, Quarter Master General of the Army.

By order of MAJOR GENERAL MACOMB:

ROGER JONES, Adj't General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, June 3, 1836.

SPECIAL ORDER,  
No. 51.

The following named officers, now absent on detached service, will forthwith proceed to Fort Mitchell, and join their respective companies for active service in the Creek war, to wit:

## On Engineer Duty.

Second Lieut. H. Loughborough, 2d artillery;  
Second Lieut. W. R. McKee, 3d artillery;  
Second Lieut. A. Brush, 4th artillery.

## On Topographical Duty.

First Lieut. E. White, 3d artillery;  
Second Lieut. J. N. Macomb, 4th artillery.

## On Ordnance Duty.

First Lieut. R. Whitely, 2d artillery.

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL MACOMB:

ROGER JONES, Adj't General.

## RESIGNATION.

Second Lieut. John H. Allen, 3d artillery, 30 June, 1836.

## NAVY.

## ORDERS.

June 1—Passed Mid. J. W. Berrien, Navy Yard, Norfolk.  
Mid. T. W. Brasher, receiving ship, N. York.  
P. Mid. A. A. Holcomb, coast survey, schr. Jersey.  
Mid. J. Rutledge, W. India Squadron.  
June 3—Mid. T. B. Huger, Naval School, New York.  
June 4—Mid. E. G. Parrott, Navy Yard, Boston.

## List of Officers ordered to Ship Boston.

Master Commandant, Bladen Dulany.  
Lieutenants T. O. Selfridge, J. W. Mooers, F. A. Deas,  
W. W. Hunter, E. W. Moore, J. K. Mitchell, H. Moor.  
Surgeon, W. Johnson. Assistant Surgeon, H. N. Glentworth.  
Acting Master, G. Gansevoort.  
Passed Midshipmen, B. Shepard, H. French, J. R. Brown, J. Anderson.  
Midshipmen, J. F. Armstrong, G. W. Rodgers.  
Boatswain, Thomas Ferrall. Gunner, Jacob Carpenter.  
Sailmaker, Rufus Bridges. Acting Carpenter, John A. Barnicoat.

## RESIGNATIONS.

William P. Bradburn, Midshipman, 2d June.  
Levi Lincoln, Jr., do. 3d "

## VESSELS REPORTED.

Frigate Constellation, Commodore Dallas, was still at Pensacola, 20th May.  
Sloop Concord, Captain Mix, was at Tampa Bay, 20th May.  
Schooner Grampus, Lieut. Com'g Boorman, sailed from Pensacola for the Balize, 17th May.  
Sloop Warren, Captain Taylor, was on the coast of Mexico, 16th May.  
Sloop Erie, Commodore Renshaw, was at Rio de Janeiro 16th April.  
Sloop Ontario, Captain, Salter, was at Rio 16th April, but was to sail from that port for New York on the 20th of April, via Bahia, Pernambuco, Maranhão and Para.

Frigate Brandywine, Captain Deacon, and Schooner Boxer, Lieut. Com'g Page, were at Callao 12th February. The Boxer was to sail 14th February to leeward, and would extend her cruise as far as Panama.

Sloop Peacock, Commodore Kennedy, sailed, in company with the schooner Enterprise, Lieut. Com'g Campbell, from Bombay, the 4th of December, and arrived at Colombo, Island of Ceylon, on the 11th December; were still there on the 24th, but to sail that day for Batavia.

## THE MAILS.

For the Mediterranean will be made up as usual on the 10th and 24th of the month, to be sent via New York.

For the Pacific, the 6th, to be forwarded by the packet as usual on the 10th from New York, via Kingston, Jamaica. A vessel will sail soon from New York for Rio de Janeiro.

## THE MARINE CORPS.

BOSTON, June 4.—The detachment of Marines which left this city for Fort Mitchell on Sunday, numbered about one hundred; they are strong, healthy and efficient men, and will unquestionably give a good account of themselves. The officers who accompanied the detachment were, Lieut. Col. William H. Freeman, Capt. T. S. English, Lieuts. Alvin Edson, D. D. Baker, R. C. Caldwell, and Wm. M. McArdle. Lieut. F. B. McNeill remains in command of the Marine Station at Charlestown, until further orders. —Statesman.

NORFOLK, June 3.—A detachment of about 150 men from Washington, and 60 from Philadelphia, were landed at Fortress Monroe yesterday morning from the steamboats Columbia and Pocahontas. Captain Twigg's command, at the Navy yard, (Gosport,) consisting of about 80, embarked in the steam packet Columbus, yesterday afternoon, and joined by those at Fortress Monroe, would proceed immediately for Charleston. The officers and men were all in fine spirits. We wish them a prosperous and successful voyage.

Officers from the Navy Yard, Gosport.—Captain Twigg, Brevet Captain McCawley. Lieutenants L. N. Carter, F. N. Armistead, W. E. Stark, and W. S. Young.

From Philadelphia.—Lieut. Col. Miller, Lieutenants Lindsay and Hall. Capt. Harris, who will proceed with the Corps, arrived here on Wednesday last.

List of Officers who left the Head Quarters of the U. S. Marine Corps, Washington City, 1st June, 1836, for Fort Mitchell, Alabama, under the command of Col. Com'dt ARCH. HENDERSON, and on duty with the Army, for the suppression of the Creek Indians.

ARCH. HENDERSON, Col. Com'dt.  
Charles R. Broom, Brevet Lt. Col. and Paymaster.  
James Edelin, Captain, commanding Company C.  
Parke G. Howle, Captain, and Adjutant and Inspector.  
Elijah J. Weed, Captain and Quartermaster.  
Wm. W. Dulany, Captain, commanding company D.  
Horatio N. Crabb, 1st Lt. and Assistant Quartermaster.  
H. B. Tyler, 1st Lt. and Adj't during the expedition.  
John T. Sprague, 2d Lt. and Commissary of Subsistence during the campaign.

Edward L. West, and Josiah Watson, 2d Lieuts.  
Wm. P. Piercy, Lieut. of the Navy, Acting Assistant Quartermaster during the campaign.

Medical Staff.—John A. Kearney, Surgeon, U. S. Navy, and Chief of the Medical Staff for the campaign.

Geo. B. McKnight, M. D. passed Assistant Surgeon U. S. Navy, attached to the corps.

The Columbus left the wharf at half past three for Old Point, and thence departed at half past five for Charleston. The number of troops, all told, was 303.—Beacon.

## MARRIAGES.

In Philadelphia, on the 25th ultimo, Captain ALFRED MORDECAI, of the U. States Army, to SARAH ANN, daughter of SAMUEL HAYS, Esq. of that city.

In Philadelphia, on the 1st instant, Lieut. THOMAS TURNER, of the U. S. Navy, to FANNY, daughter of the late WILLIAM PALMER, Esq.

## DEATH.

In Greenville county, Virginia, on the 9th ultimo, in the 43d year of his age, Lieut. JAMES GOODRUM, of the Navy, after a protracted indisposition of several years.



